

Courageous Living

Inspired By God
and
Inspiring To Others!

What Does A Courageous Christian Look Like and From Where Does Courage Come?

Courageous Christians
Have The
Spirit As A Helper!

*“I Know More
About The Holy Spirit
Than I Used To
But Still Less
Than I Would Like To.”*

Some Things I Know

The Holy Spirit Isn't...

- He isn't our personal parking attendant or concierge.
 - He's not procuring parking spaces or hair appointments.
- He isn't telling us when/where to go on vacation.
- He isn't telling us that a Scripture means something that is contrary to what the text itself says.
- He isn't leading us to do ungodly things.
- He isn't guiding us in ways that cannot be tested.

As the third person of the trinity, He does vital things.

The Spirit Works In Many Ways

- Christians receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit at baptism and He does many things.
- He also works in unbelievers. – John 16:8 (NIV) *When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:*
- Isaiah 45:1a, 5 (NIV) – *"This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus...I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me,*

Everything that is Good is from God and the Spirit is God.

- James 1:17 (NIV) *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*
- The Spirit as God is creator, and every step and breath we have taken is a blessing of His work.
- Acts 14:17 (NIV) – *Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."*

The fact that people don't give credit to God and His Spirit for the good things they have received does not mean God has not blessed them nor that He will continue to do so.

“He causes it to rain on the just and the unjust.”

Matthew 5:45

However,
There Is A Special Relationship
That Believers Have With God
Through The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a Gift from God.

- We receive the Holy Spirit. We do not earn it.
- Acts 2:38-39 (NIV) – *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."*
- No one earns a gift or a promise.

Galatians 3:14 (NIV)

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

Heirs Do Not Earn Their Inheritance.

The land of Canaan was Israel's "promised land" and their "inheritance."

The Indwelling Spirit is the believer's "promised Spirit" and the down payment of the "believer's inheritance."

The Spirit of God Gives Us Strength.

- Ephesians 3:16 (NIV) – *I (Paul) pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,*
- Philippians 1:19-21 (NIV) ...*for I (Paul) know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

The Holy Spirit Is The Comforter But Not Just In A Soothing Way.

- Greek “Parakletos” (John 14:16)
- Called to one's side, a counsel for defense, an advocate.
- In the widest sense, a helper. It is used of the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the gospel truth, and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the kingdom

The Holy Spirit Makes Us Different, Holy, Sanctified.

- Sanctification basically means we have been set apart; we are different, Holy, and now belong to God.
- 1 Peter 1:2a (NIV) – *who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit...*
- Hebrews 12:14 (NIV) – *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

How he does all this, I do not know, but he does it!

The Holy Spirit Produces Fruit In The Life of The Christian.

- Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
- These are the evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, and our fellowship with Jesus and the Heavenly Father.
- We need the Spirit of Christ to be Holy. John 15:5 (NIV) – *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

The Holy Spirit Transforms Into The Image of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NIV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Paul Even Pray For This

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NIV)

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

If What I Have Said Is True,
If The Spirit Of God Is In Us, With Us
And Willing And Able To Transform Us
And Strengthen Us...

Why Aren't We Better Than We Are?
Why Don't We Do Better Than We Do?

I don't have a definitive
answer but here are
possibilities.

Perhaps...

- We consciously and even unconsciously fight against the transformation the Spirit is trying to bring about.
- Maybe we are too happy with who we are and think...
“I’m ok you’re ok.” ~NO!~ “I’m a sinner you’re a sinner.”
- We have underestimated the power of the sinful nature and therefore how wide the gap is between us and Jesus.
- We don’t realize or remember that the Holy Spirit can be resisted.

Acts 7:51-52 (NIV)

“You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—”

One Thing Is Certain, The Problem Does Not Lie With The Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-24 (NIV)

Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

The Holy Spirit Is Our Helper.

He wants to Help us. He is a Gift to us.

He wants to Strengthen us. He wants to Guide us.

He wants to Comfort us. He wants to Transform us.

He wants to produce Godly Fruit in us.

He wants make us Holy.

A Prayer for the Help of the Spirit

Heavenly Father, Your Word tells us that Your promised Holy Spirit lives in us, and by His power, we are Your representatives. Jesus, You said that we would do the same works that You did, and even greater, through the power of Your Spirit. As we make ourselves living sacrifices, continue to fill us with Your Spirit so we might do Your work on earth. Help us to not grieve Your Spirit, but to submit to You and allow Your power to have full sway in us that we will be useful in Your service. We ask You to empower us through Your Holy Spirit with inner strength for this task.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.